

# Civilian Conservation Corps - Minn. Dist. (Publication - (about) 1935)

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## History of Camp S-81, Company No. 724

At 10:30 a. m., June 17, 1933, 204 weary men arrived at Ray, Minnesota, and were taken by truck to a lonely spot in Kabetogama State Forest about 13 miles south of Ray on highway number 53. Instead of finding a nice comfortably constructed dwelling, as later enrollees found, theirs was a hard lot. They found an open spot in the woods covered with white and Norway pine stumps and grass several feet high. After eating a hastily prepared dinner, the men set to work under the direction of Captain Davenport. Grass had to be cut, stumps uprooted, ground leveled, stakes driven, tents put up, cots set up, and mess equipment arranged so that food could be served. With determined efforts the men set to work, and by evening the tents were erected. After a hot supper, the men were ready for bed. They had ridden over three hundred miles, cleared land and constructed their home all in one day. If ever the bed was pleasing to them, theirs certainly was that night. Weary and tired, the 204 men crawled into bed and were soon sound asleep.

After spending a few days about the camp improving the camp site, the men were set to work under the able supervision of Fred Wolff, the forestry superintendent, to do forestry work. Although forestry improvement has been the predominating work, it has not been the only work. In a year's time, from June 17, 1933, to June 30, 1934, the forestry department boasts the following work completed:

- 998 acres fire hazard reduction.
- 20 acres roadside clearing.
- 37 miles telephone lines
- 13 acres cleared for tourist camps.
- 33 fires put under control.
- 1200 telephone poles cut.
- 132 thousand board feet lumber sawed.
- 253 acres thinning
- 3811 acres cruising

- 69 1-2 miles surveyed
  - 9 truck trails built.
  - 21 acres trees planted.
  - 1 dock constructed.
  - 1 land and lawn improvement at ranger station.
- This is an excellent record as there has been on the average of less than 200 men in camp.

On August 1, 1933, work was begun on the pres-



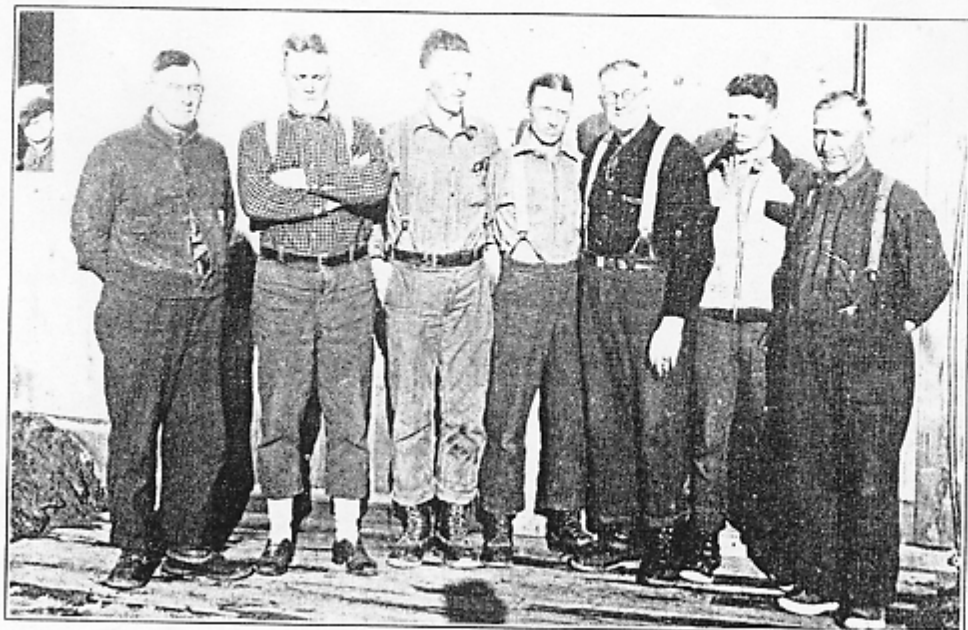
Left to right: 1st Lieut. D. Koop, C. A. Res.; Capt. G. W. Conary, C. A. Res., Commanding; 1st Lieut. W. P. Manning, Med. Res.

ent camp site. With the aid of a few local experienced carpenters the present barracks was constructed and completed October 6, 1933. It is perhaps the best planned and arranged camp in the district because of the fact that the entire camp is all under one roof. It is unique in that it is the only camp in which one can pass to all parts of the buildings without going outside. This fact is best appreciated during the winter.

During the life of the camp there have been four commanders, the first being Captain Davenport, who served from June 17, 1933, to September, during the trying days of the early organization. In September, Captain Harper arrived from Nebraska and assumed control. It was his lot to serve during the cold winter. When Captain Harper left on March 15, 1934, the task of running the company was assigned to First Lieutenant Kopp who arrived at camp in Sep-

tember and served as junior officer until assuming control. With the arrival of Captain Conary on April 20, 1934, the commandership was transferred to him and in his hands it now remains.

The camp superintendent, Mr. F. P. Wolff, has the help of the following men to carry on his work: Era Laitala, technical forester and second in charge of the forestry work; Noble Trygg, foreman and fire



Left to right: F. Wolff, Supt.; George Smith, N. E. Trigg, E. L. Laitala, Theo. Watson, C. Forsyth, C. A. Pogue.

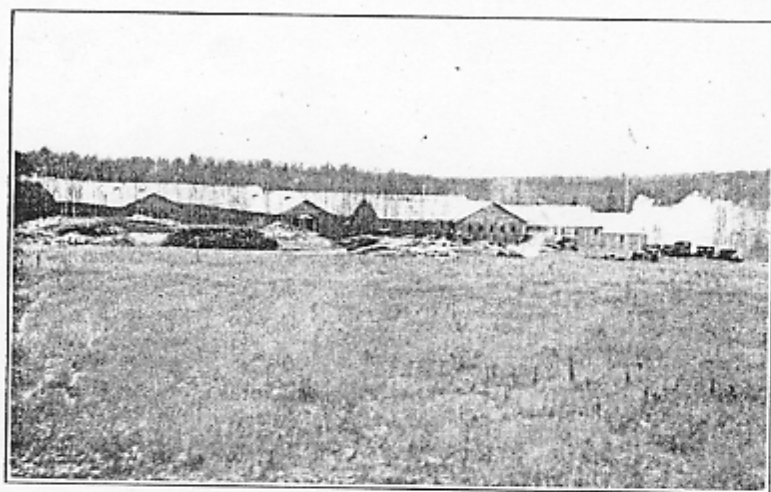
Four doctors have served as medical men during the camp's one year of existence, the first being Lieut. Berman, who was followed by Lieut. Greenberg. The

marshal; C. Forsythe, camp engineer; Thomas Watson, George Smith, and Charles Pogue, foremen.

In addition to the work to improve the camp site

and the state land, a large percentage of the boys are improving their mental capacities by attending classes under the supervision of Mr. A. R. Peterson, educational adviser. The following classes have been conducted since the first of March: Forestry, first aid, surveying, radio, bookkeeping, typewriting, mathematics, singing, orchestra, blue print reading, and electrical engineering. All is not work about the camp. For recreation there is baseball, kitten ball, swimming, and horse shoes for those who wish to play. There is a dance once a month and a movie once a week in addition to camp programs twice each month. There is always one religious service

each week and sometimes two. The company staff attempts to develop and maintain a high moral standard and keep the enrollees both physically and mentally well.



View of Camp S-81

third doctor was Lieut. Hendrickson, now camp doctor at Company 1721. Our present doctor is Lieut. Manning, formerly of Company 1721. These four officers have rendered the camp excellent service.

C.C.C.

Company 724

Camp S-81

Kabetogoma Lake

By  
W. F. Miller  
Hrbbing, Mn.

